

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Monday 3rd April 2023

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Anger

Anger is a powerful emotion. We are well aware how it can lead to hate and destruction. However, channelled constructively, human beings have achieved amazing things, changing what is wrong, standing up for the powerless, showing solidarity, bringing about fairness, hope and peace. In this way, anger is an expression of love.

It might explain Jesus extraordinary action upon arriving in Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday, which we celebrated yesterday. He goes into the temple, the holy place of prayer and worship, and a place to find peace presumably, and overturns the furniture, and drives out the merchants! His reason seems to be that the merchants were exploiting and overcharging foreigners who had come to worship.

It is not the first time we see Jesus angry. He got angry when powerful religious leaders put their man-made rules ahead of helping someone who was in great need. He was indignant at the isolation that those suffering with leprosy were made to endure. He was also indignant when his disciples tried to prevent little children being brought to Jesus for him to bless them. He was angry at death, as he stood at the grave of his friend Lazarus, when He saw the grief of his sisters.

His anger was often mixed with his compassion for those who suffer. God is love, and God's love requires that He cares about the great injustices we see in our world. However, unlike which can happen all too often with human anger, God's anger, never moves into hate or destruction. His anger was supremely channelled through love and compassion, on the cross of Jesus, into healing, forgiveness, restoration and new life.

It is also good to remember what Paul writes in Ephesians.

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, -
Ephesians 4:6

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 21:12-16

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,'but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,

"From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"